1	2	3
3.	China	52
4.	Maldives	13
5.	Myanmar	37
6.	Nepal	339
7.	Pakistan	629- 159 civilian 396 fishermen 74 service personnel
8.	Sri Lanka	58 (including 13 fishermen in judicial custody)
	TOTAL:	2012

Construction of road in non-demarcated Indian territory

†*72. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a road is being constructed by China in non-demarcated Indian territory;

(b) whether the construction of a metalled road up to the Everest Base Camp at a cost of dollar 2 crore is a matter of concern from the security point of view;

(c) whether Minister of Cultural Affairs of China, Mr. Sun Jia Jang who visited India recently had confirmed that construction work on the 108 km. long highway would continue;

(d) whether this construction would destroy the age old ecology of Himalayas; and

(e) whether Government have raised the issue of road construction with the Government of China?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) Government have seen media reports stating that China plans to construct a highway on Mount Everest, which is located on the border between Nepal and the Tibet Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China. According to these reports, construction is likely to be completed in four months and at an estimated cost of US$ 19.7 million. Chinese Culture Minister Sun Jiazheng is reported to have confirmed this to the media during a visit to New Delhi on 20 June, 2007. According

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

to media reports, the Chinese side has also said that they would be mindful of environmental concerns while doing so. Government keep a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and take all necessary measures to safeguard it.

Urban poor

*73. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an independent study by an NGO 'Urban Health Resource Centre' has found that nearly 30 per cent or 90 million people living in urban areas are poor and according to UN Habitat, the number is likely to touch 200 million in 2020;

(b) whether the study that has analysed data collected by the National Family Health Survey-II points out that development indices such as infant mortality and maternal health are also low in urban areas;

(c) if so, the other main features of the report; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The NGO "Urban Health Resource Centre (UHRC), New Delhi" has reported that it has not conducted any independent study for estimating the number of urban poor. However, the estimates of urban poor by the Planning Commission based on the 61st Round Survey of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) have put the figure between 68.2 million [by Mixed Recall Period (MRP) Method] to 80.8 million [by Uniform Recall Period (URP) Method]. Similarly, the UN-Habitat Report "The State of the World's Cities 2006-2007: The Millennium Development Goals and Urban Sustainability-30 years of Shaping the Habitat Agenda" does not provide projections of the urban poor population in 2020 but it makes projection of urban slum population in India to be 219.47 million in 2020.

(b) and (c) The UHRC has reported that it has analyzed the National Family Health Survey-II data which revealed that the under five mortality rate among the urban poor is 112.2 per 1000 live births which is nearly three times higher than the rates for the urban high income groups. The access to maternal health services is also poor in urban slums. Other health indicators also reveal wide disparities between the urban poor and the rest of the urban population.

(d) To tackle the poverty situation in urban areas, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing an employment oriented urban poverty alleviation scheme namely Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) w.e.f. 1.12.1997. The scheme strives to provide gainful employment to the urban poor by assisting them to set up individual/group micro-enterprises as well as utilising their labour for the construction of socially useful public assets under the wage employment component. Similarly, for providing basic amenities such as affordable shelter, water and sanitation to the urban poor living in the urban areas, the Basic